

Homage to late Vidwan Dwaram Narasinga Rao Garu

- Pundit G.N. Dantaleji

Retd. Principal Govt. College of Music
& Dance Hyderabad.

The great violin wizard Dr. Dwaram Venkata Swamy Naidu Garu was born at Bangalore on November 8th 1893 in a family with a fine musical tradition. This gifted learned and experienced violinist was appointed as professor of violin in the Maharaja's Music College in 1919; in 1936 he became the principal of the College.

The entire Vizianagaram was resounding with the celestial strains of Dr. Dwaram Garu. Dwaram Narasinga Rao Garu was born in this prestigious family of musicians which nourished and preserved this rich tradition of Karnatak music.

Dwaram Narasinga Rao Garu had in-born gift of music and he was trained in vocal and violin playing ever since his early childhood. He showed considerable progress in the art of singing and violin playing.

After having equipped with good knowledge and experience he was appointed as professor in the same Maharajah College. He had good aptitude for teaching and trained several students in violin playing. He had good interest in teaching vocal music. To cite, Nedunuri Krishna Murthy and N.Ch. Satyanarayana who were initially violin students were given good grounding in vocal music which helped them in later years to gain name as eminent Karnatak Vocal singers of national and international fame. They are Dwaram Narasinga Rao's precious gift to the world of Karnatak music. The great play back singer of Telugu film Shri Ghantasala was a product of Maharaja's Music College and had close contacts with Dwaram Narasinga Rao garu. Narasinga Rao garu like Dr. Venkata Swamy Naidu garu trained his sons and daughters. Shri Durgaprasad, Shri Satyanarayana and Mr. Manorama from their childhood, and they have made name as eminent Karnatak violin artists. They are the precious gift of music to the Karnatak music world. Durgaprasad retired as Principal of the Maharaja Government Music College and Mrs. Manorama as Principal of the prestigious Govt. college of Music &

Dance of which Vidwan G.N. Dantale was founder principal for 24 years from 1952. He was an asset to the college.

After formation of Andhra Pradesh State the Government took over Maharajah Music College in 1958. Director of Technical Education in 1958 gas arranged meeting of all the Principals of Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics, it is, Music College and other institutions under the administrative control of Technical Education Department. I had opportunity then to meet Dwaram Narasinga Rao garu. He visited my college and on my invitation assured to share meals with me in his next visit. Destiny did not materialize his next visit.

Narasinga Rao garu was an asset of the college. He was modest with dignified behaviour and commanded great respect as a man and a musician. He had to maintain large family. He did it with his onerous duty. He became Principal of the Maharaja College and took to the peak of prosperity. Students from entire Andhra Pradesh used to tome to learn violin under him.

He died at a comparatively early age. Durgaprasad then in 1960 was studying in the college. He had to leave his studies to join Government College of Music, Vijayawada, as lecturer. Narasinga Rao garu was a musician with dignified behaviour. Pride and jealousy never touched his mind. The same gift of his temperament is transferred to his sons and daughters. Durgaprasad garu, Mr. Manorama commended respect as Principals. Sri Satyanarayana is gifted solo and accompanying artist in the All India Radio, Hyderabad, a popular violinist wanted by every musician.

This precious musical jewel in the personality of Vidwan Dwaram Narasinga Rao garu will be remembered for all times to come in the music world of Andhra Pradesh in general and Maharaja Government Music College in particular.

I offer my profound respectful pranams to his memory on this occasion of his birth centenary celebrations. Narasinga Rao garu used to wear simple dress. When I met him in the conference of the principals of Technical Education in 1958 he had put on dhoti with full shirt and coat. He was never jealous of anybody. When Durgaprasad won first prize in violin

playing Narasinga Rao garu was immensely happy. On his visit my college he lamented saying “Dantale garu, why should some people be jealous, he got it on his own merit.”

In his formative years also Narasinga Rao garu must have been playing sweetly. He must have learnt from Dwaram garu, besides his own style of singing.

He shaped musical personality of Durgaprasad – Durgaprasad’s playing reminds De. Dwaram garu’s playing. Dr. Dwaram garu had observed playing of Durgaprasad, his qualities of head and heart. Dr. Dwaram garu expressed to me “Dantale garu, I would be happy if Durgaprasad stays with me for some years.” Destiny was different. In my opinion Dwaram garu’s training and his experience of accompanying Dwaram garu in practice and in kacheri would have made Durgaprasad “Junior Dwaram garu”.

Dwaram Narasinga Rao garu had closely observed the intellectual capacity and playing of his sons Durgaprasad, Satyanarayana and Mrs. Manorama and taught them as much as possible till his last breath. There are several violin vidwans in Andhra Desa. But Dwaram School of playing violin is entirely different, simple chaste and sweet. Melodious playing is the soul and essence of Dwaram gharana of playing violin. Fortunate are those h who had heard Dwaram Narasinga Rao’s solo violin playing.